

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 1, 1991

Published Since 1877

## Glass helps prisoners overcome hard knocks

By Matthew Brady

DALLAS (BP) — As a former All-American and All-Pro defensive end, Bill Glass knows about hard knocks and punishment.

But for the past 18 years he has become an expert in punishment of another kind.

Last year his Bill Glass Evangelistic Association recorded more than 10,000 decisions in its prison ministry. The response has been similar throughout the 25-year history of the association's other ministry — city-wide crusades.

He graduated from Baylor in 1957, then entered the Canadian Football League. The next spring Glass enrolled at Southwestern Seminary.

"I really felt that I needed to be better prepared if I was going to spend most of my time doing Christian work," Glass said.

For the next six years he attended Southwestern in the off-season. In 1963 he graduated with a theology degree.

By that time he had finished one year of football in the Canadian League, four years with the Detroit Lions, and had begun a seven-year

career with the Cleveland Browns. During his years in Cleveland, Glass was named to four Pro Bowl squads and played on the Browns teams that won the National Football League championship in 1964 and divisional championships in '65, '67, and '68.

Glass said his teammates would make life miserable for him sometimes, making fun of and laughing at him.

"Football players have to have something to tease you about. If it wasn't that, it would be something else," Glass said. "I really just laughed along with them and didn't fight it."

"They would make Christianity a series of moral platitudes as opposed to a vital, living faith," Glass said.

"The worst possible thing that could happen would be for me to clean up their morality and them still not become Christians, because now they're just self-righteous pagans, but they are still pagans," he said.

In 1966, Glass began city-wide crusades in the off-season. When he retired from football in 1969, he went full time with the crusades.

But Glass didn't believe he had much in common with prisoners.

"I had been the sort of all-American type. I'd never really been a street person. I'd never really been involved in a life of deep sin or anything like that," he said. "I didn't feel that I fit in with these kind of sleazy characters in prison."

In 1972, Glass, along with 40 counselors and well-known athletes, entered Ohio's Marion Prison. After a 40-minute athletic clinic, Glass gave a short testimony and invited the prisoners to stay afterward and talk with the counselors.

That first program resulted in 40 decisions, and Glass never looked back.

Since 1972, he has taken his combination of big-name athletes and the gospel to 600 prisons. This year he will visit nearly 100 prisons and anticipates visiting 120 prisons next year. His ministry resources have grown to include 8,000 volunteer counselors nationwide.

Brady writes for Southwestern Seminary.

## Things fail; people fail, says author

By Karen Benson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The Bible is full of promises and hope for Christians who find themselves experiencing failure, says author Deborah Brunt of Corinth, Miss.

Brunt is author of the book *Things Fail; People Fail: Getting Up And Going On With Life After You've Fallen*, just released by New Hope, a publishing arm of Woman's Missionary Union. Brunt recently led a seminar based on the book during WMU week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

"To his people who have failed, God offers solid promises of recovery," she said, quoting several Scripture references.

When Christians fail, "we do not do so by accident," Brunt said. "God's Word promises that his angels watch us constantly to protect us from 'slip-ups.' When we fail, we can know that someone with evil intent tripped us."

That "someone" is real, although not necessarily the "flesh-and-blood persons we may be tempted to blame for our failure," she said. "Our foes are

much more formidable," she said. The Apostle Paul described the foes of believers as "the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world," Brunt said.

"They keep well-hidden behind outward appearances while delivering knockout blows to unsuspecting believers. Then, when God's people go sprawling, the hosts of hell rejoice."

Yet, God is able to protect Christians from such attacks, she said. "Our God is almighty."

Benson writes for WMU.

## Woman says Bible verses kept her safe

By Toni Lipeska

God kept his promise of protection, a 71-year-old Jackson woman said, July 24, a day after she recited the 23rd Psalm while burglars ransacked her home.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," Evelyn Graves of Morson Road recited soon after hearing a crash about 10 p.m. July 23.

"I just kept saying the 23rd Psalm over and over. I had to do something . . . I was terrified."

Graves had been reading Charles Colson's book, *Five Years to Life*, about a man who steals, murders, and is converted to Christianity in prison, when she got up to investigate the sound.

She discovered her back door had been knocked down.

"He maketh me lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."

Three youths had come inside her home. One was armed with a knife.

"You get over there and get out of the way," Graves recalled one burglar saying. They promised to not harm her if she obeyed, she said.

They began to rummage through her dresser drawers and refrigerator.

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Apparently, at least one of the burglars did not appreciate hearing the Old Testament Bible verse. "I just wish you'd shut up. You're getting on my nerves," Graves, who goes to Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson, recalls one youth saying.

"I just kept on."

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me."

Graves called police to report the

burglary as the youths escaped in her 1987 Chrysler LeBaron with a small, undisclosed amount of money and a watch.

Police spokesman Don Hoffman said Wednesday afternoon that officers had not arrested and charged anyone with the burglary and auto theft and they welcome any tips from the community concerning the crime. Graves said law officers found her car, but she did not yet have it back.

Graves said she picked the 23rd Psalm because it happened to be the scripture that popped into her mind.

"It's just a prayer to the Lord to take care of me," she added. "And he did."

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over."

— Reprinted from the Jackson Clarion-Ledger.



HISTORIC CONCERT — Marilyn Cochran, a concert pianist from Dallas, performs in Central Concert Hall, a prominent cultural stage in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. Fourteen performing units from the United States toured with Kazakh groups throughout Kazakhstan, the second largest of the 15 Soviet republics, during the first Kazakh-American Cultural Festival June 21-July 6. The banner symbolizes the two-week event, which was the first large-scale cultural exchange between Americans and Kazakhs. It was initiated by Southern Baptists working with the Central Asian Foundation. "The festival became a foundation for establishing Kazakh-American cooperation," said Kazakhstan President Noursultan Nazarbaev. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

## Student center in Bangkok uses volunteers to teach English

Learning English as a second language is a big attraction for the 1,000 to 1,400 people who enroll at the Baptist student center in Bangkok, Thailand, each term. Missionary Donald Phlegar, a Mississippian from Yazoo City, is director of the English program at the center.

"Through the English program we have a way to reach students and win souls, which is our purpose for existing," said Thongchai Pradubchananurat, Thai director of the center. When each student registers, he receives a Christian witness.

After becoming Christians, many students begin witnessing to their families, friends, and employees, said Maxine Stewart, missionary press representative.

One Thai woman who came to the student center told how, while she studied in the United States, she attended a Baptist church and no one told her how to become a Christian. Her question at the student center

was, "How can I become a Christian?" Then when she accepted the Lord, she became active in the New Vision Baptist Church that meets in the student center. Later, up-country to manage some mines owned by her family, she witnessed to many of the employees. Nineteen of them have become Christians, thus far.

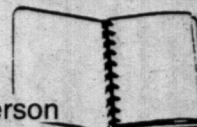
Between May 1990 and April 1991, seventeen students made decisions for Christ through New Vision Baptist Church.

Usually four full-time journeymen and a varying number of American volunteers teach English at the center. "This is a wonderful place for people who want to have a part in mission work," said Stewart, "but do not have the Thai language, to plug into the English teaching program." Anyone wishing to consider this type of volunteer work should contact the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, for further details.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## The salt of the earth

Salt (NaCl) is an important staple in kitchens worldwide. We are urged to cut the consumption of sodium; it triggers high blood pressure and allied ailments. We are advised to avoid salty foods, table salt, and processed foods with high sodium content. Even so, salt is essential to man's health.

In one of the lowest spots on earth is the Salt Sea or Dead Sea with a salinity ten times greater than the ocean. Nothing can live there. Near the southern end great banks of salt can be seen projecting from the water like miniature white mountains or like clouds which failed to become airborne.

Salt is treated with respect in every nation. It is used to preserve, flavor, and protect food. It can purify. This indispensable commodity can be expensive, terribly expensive, if there is a scarcity. Cakes of salt have been used as money in several countries. The salt is valuable to its owner, and is protected by the owner.

Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:14), a descriptive phrase, not only of the Christians, but of the world in which we live. The world around is corrupt, putrid, and growing more so each day. Salt can save the food from utter corruption, and the Christian is to save the society from corruption. Abraham, pleading for the corrupt cities of the plain, cried out, "If only ten (righteous) can be found, will you spare it?" God answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it" (Gen.

18:32). Ten righteous people in Sodom could have saved the city. A pinch of salt is effective out of all proportion to its amount.

Salt must be applied to be effective. Contact is essential; ivory towers of isolation are out. Passive goodness is not enough but there must be the permeation of our marketplace by the judge on the bench, the businessman in his shop, and the mechanic in the garage. What if our food were salty and flavorful only on Sunday? So much for the Sunday religionist. Salt does its work quietly without noisy clamor just to be seen or heard.

Flavor is greatly enhanced by salt. Herschel Hobbs tells of a woman who was asked if she would become a Christian. "No, I am sad enough as it is." She had seen enough of tasteless, insipid Christians.

Jesus also said salt can lose its savor or taste. Now salt which is pure sodium chloride does not deteriorate, but it does when diluted or mixed with foreign substance. Jesus is not speaking of deterioration but adulteration. According to biblical scholars, such salt was good for nothing, except possibly being used on a muddy footpath in lieu of sand.

Christians can surely lose their flavor. There is a lost enthusiasm, low vitality, unclear vision, and tasteless comments. Moreover, uselessness and fruitlessness fly the flag of condemnation. It's the barren fig trees, the burying of talent, and the servants without oil that drew the fire of judgment. John the Baptist told his con-

gregation to "bring forth fruit, worthy of repentance . . . every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down . . ." Christians either redeem the world or the world will rob them of the vitality of Christianity.

Salt is different from the object in which it is placed and its qualities are heightened by this difference. The Christian is to be as different from his society as salt is from the meat into which it is rubbed. Thus, the function of salt is not to provide health, but to prevent putrefaction. Health is merely a by-product. Later Jesus would say, "Ye are the light of the world" and add a positive touch.

When a Christian enters a room where profanity is rife, immediately people begin to modify their language. Just the presence of God's children ought to have an immediate and profound effect on everything around it. In our political, economic, and social conditions, where is the salt of Christianity? Think of children working 12 hours a day in a sweat shop, slavery, gambling, profane political leaders, and oppression of all kinds in a world without salt.

The task of the church is evangelism and there are those who say we should not interfere in political and social matters. Salt does its work naturally; by virtue of its nature it preserves. Christians, by nature, will cast a shadow on the affairs of men and it will make a difference. There is a swamp of putrefaction out there. Pass the salt, please!

## For those who serve

Baptist lay people are concerned about the welfare of their ministers and staff members. The key members of budget committees have a responsibility for recommending adequate financial support.

Many objections could be overcome by establishing a biblical approach to financial support for those who labor in the kingdom. There are ministry-related expenses to be considered such as auto expenses, participation in conferences and conventions, expenses for books, tapes, and research materials, which are the tools of those who minister. Hospitality expenses and money for updating skills in continuing education should be considered. Paul posed an interesting question: "Did you ever hear of a man serving in the army at his own expense?" (1 Cor. 9:7 NEB).

Merit raises are helpful but the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a necessity if given fair consideration. With the inflation chart showing four to six percent increases in the last few years, without compensation to cover this, the pastor is actually taking a cut each year. Fringe benefits in medical insurance, annuity, and housing can be extremely helpful in eliminating stress. When the minister finds it difficult to "make ends meet" the situation can be on his mind to the detri-

ment of the work he is called to do.

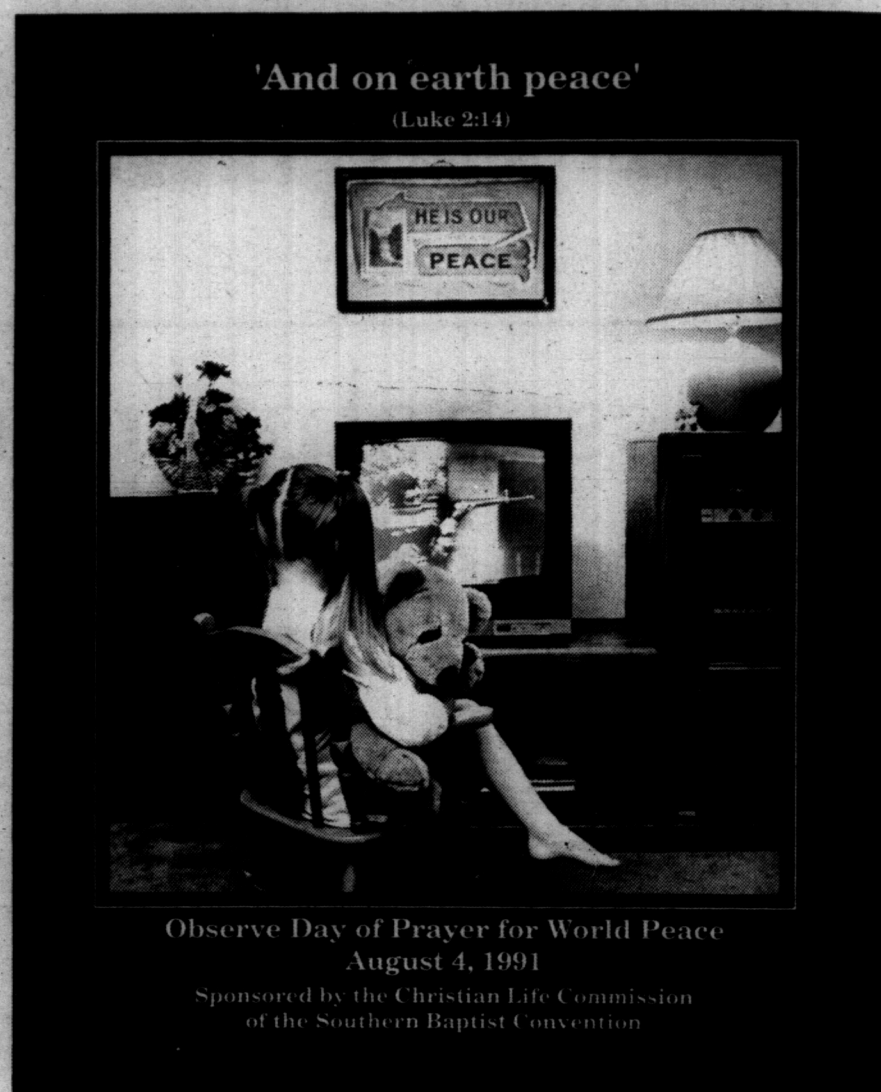
In the next few weeks hundreds of churches will do budget planning. The committee would do well to request a video, "Face the Fact: Staff Financial Report" from your local director of missions. Also, you can ask for the (1)

Church Stewardship Program Plan Book, (2) The Years Ahead (Annuity Book), and (3) Church Staff Salary Report. All are free by writing to the Stewardship Department and the Annuity Representative, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. — GH

**U.S. SENATE TAKES STEPS TO AVOID POSTAL RATE HIKE:** WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Senate has appropriated \$266 million less than the \$649.3 million the Postal Service says is needed to fully fund the postal subsidy for non-profit mailers. But in an effort to avoid any rate increase stemming from a shortfall in the subsidy, the Senate approved an amendment designed to reduce postal processing costs. The \$19.5 billion Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill (H.R. 2622) allocates \$383 million for the non-profit mail subsidy for fiscal 1992 and was approved by a 91-8 vote. Those organizations that use the non-profit rates include most state Baptist newspapers and many churches. The House earlier approved \$649.3 million for the subsidy. While less than the amount the House voted to appropriate, the Senate bill is \$200 million more than the Bush administration proposed to spend for the subsidy. The president's proposal would result in a 33 percent rate increase for the non-profit subsidy, known as the "revenue foregone" appropriation. Revenue foregone reimburses the Postal Service for the non-profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. Non-profit mail rates reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail.

**CLARKE COUNTY ASSOCIATION SPONSORS RECYCLING DRIVE:** Through the Baptist Center in Quitman, the Clarke County Association is promoting a recycling drive. The money received through the drive is to be used to help needy people, according to Grady Crowell, director of missions.

Robert Cross, student summer missionary for the association, has been picking up these items on call and he and the director of missions have delivered them to the recycling center.



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace  
August 4, 1991  
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

## Guest opinion . . .

## 'And on earth peace'

Luke 2:14, KJV

The world longed for it. The Savior's birth was the occasion for it. The angels were majestic messengers who proclaimed it.

"And on earth peace," the heavenly host said on that first Christmas long ago.

The message delivered then is as applicable today, even in August, as it was then.

At the time of Jesus' birth, war and strife had wracked the known world for centuries. The Promised Land had endured tremendous turmoil. Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Babylonians all had fought for the land, mostly because it intersected the great trade routes linking the major regions of the known world.

Roman soldiers fought wars as pawns for Roman leaders. In the New Testament era, Rome ruled the land of Israel. Israelites bitterly resented Roman occupation. Because of their disagreement about how to deal with the Romans, Israelites lived with hostility toward each other.

Many voices promised peace. Israel longed for a future messianic age of peace and harmony. Mystery religions promised peace through union with pagan deities. Rome offered its citizens hope for peace through its "Pax Romana" (Roman Peace) achieved by the Caesar's legions.

Into this ancient world longing for peace, the angels came to announce the birth of the Prince of Peace. All

too often we confine this message to the Christmas season. We should pray for peace each day of the year.

The angelic message brought more than anything for which humans could hope. Most of humanity, wanting to find the secret key, looked for peace in the future or in the hereafter.

By contrast, the Good News of Jesus meant peace is possible now on the earth.

Biblical peace brings wholeness. It is more than merely the absence of conflict. It means wholeness in relationship to God and to other human beings.

The peace of God, a gift from on high, differs from the peace of this world. Its great quality is "good will toward men." This peace, which only God gives, cannot be enjoyed privately. It is too bountiful to be restrained. It flows like a river and seeks other humans for whom God wants the absence of conflict and wholeness.

The world wants peace. The angels have told us of the birth of the Prince of Peace. God offers peace. Let us pray for peace.

And, having prayed for peace, let us live in peace. Let us work for peace. As we glorify God and act with good will toward other humans, he will teach us the meaning of being peacemakers.

This theme interpretation was produced by the staff of the Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.

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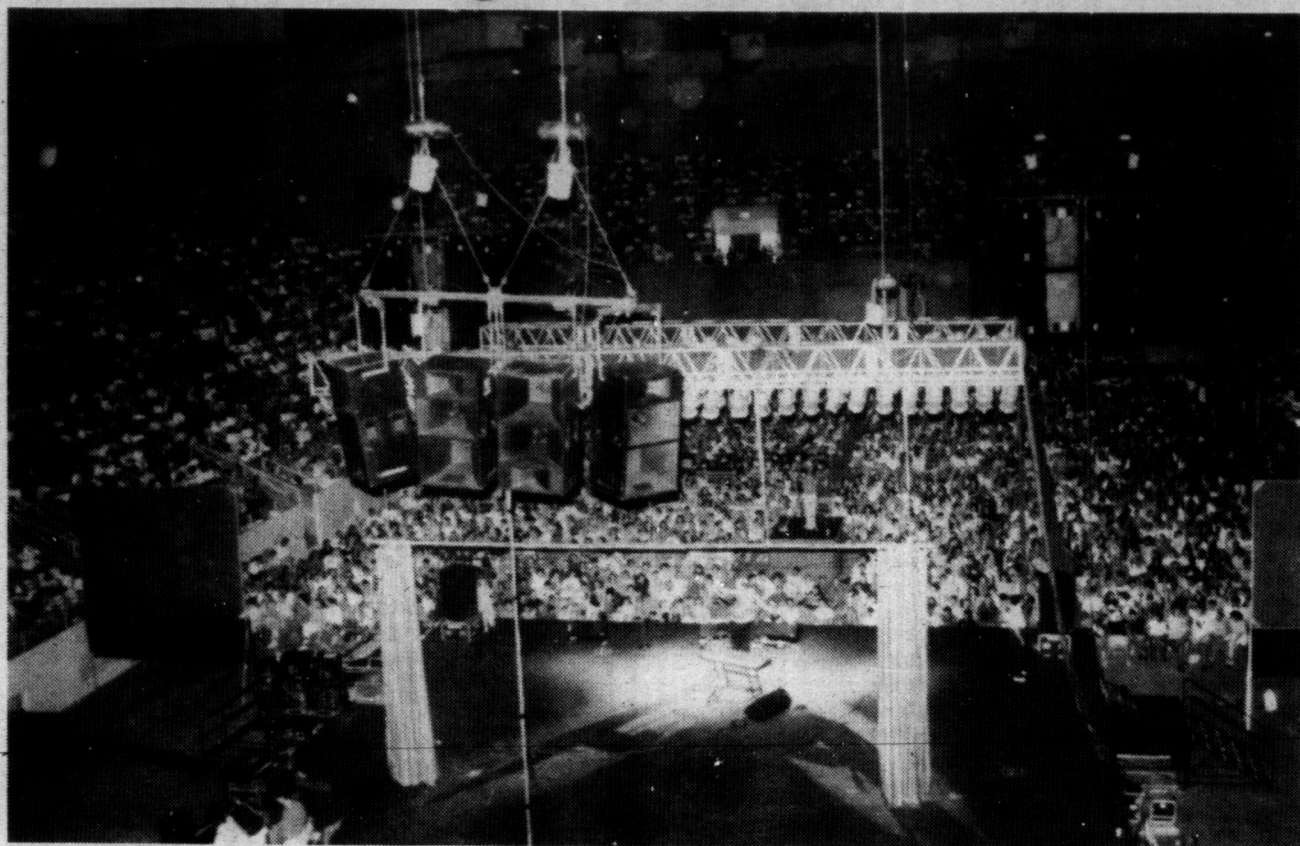
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# Youth Night draws 10,200



By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, July 26, drew a record crowd of Baptist young people.

The more than 10,200 who attended heard Louis Giglio (bottom left) talk about people taking on the characteristics of their parents. He said it is natural for a young person to look and act like his or her parents.

The same is true for the spiritual area, he said. "The most natural thing to do is grow up and look like, be like, and act like your heavenly father," he said.

Musician-humorist Doug Wood played his corn cob harmonica and involved volunteers in a country-western song. Pictured (top right) with Wood are Daniel Dukes of Grifith Memorial Church, Jackson, and Kristen Langford of First Church, Tupelo.

Singer Paul Smith (bottom right) led the group into worship with songs as "Someday Jesus will call my name."

This year, an overflow area at the nearby Mississippi Trade Mart was utilized with about 1,000 of the youths attending there.

Large screen projections took the coliseum activities to the Trade Mart group. Hinds-Madison and Rankin youths had been requested to go to that arena. In return they were treated to an early concert by Jeff Lynn and snacks were available for purchase.

The program is sponsored annually by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Traditionally, the entire program is funded through Cooperative Program dollars. It was announced this year that in 1992 an offering will be taken at the event.



The Second Front Page

## The Baptist Record

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Thursday, August 1, 1991

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### WMU members urged to get involved with pregnant teens

By Susan Todd Doyle

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Teenage pregnancies in the United States are on the rise, not on the decline, a nursing educator told women attending Woman's Missionary Union leadership training July 13-19.

In one-half of those births, the teenage mother is unmarried.

"Our teens want to know about sex and want to know what good sexual behavior is," said Kaye Wilson, assistant professor of nursing at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. "We can talk about our mission programs all we want, but if we don't answer their questions (about sex), then we've lost them."

Teenage pregnancies are not isolated cases among non-churched youth, she said. Churched youth are part of the rising statistics.

"We have all been affected by teenage pregnancy, whether at school, at church, or in our tax dollars," Wilson said, citing recent statistics:

- 1 million teens, or one in 10, become pregnant each year.
- 2,700 teens become pregnant each day.
- 470,000 teens give birth each year.
- 400,000 teens abort a pregnancy

each year.

— Of all the births within the United States in a year, 13 percent are to teen-agers.

— Initiation to sex most often begins in the teen-age girl's home.

Most teenage girls who end up pregnant never intended to be sexually active, Wilson said. But of those who do become pregnant, their reasons can usually be traced to one of six factors:

— Some desire to be pregnant. "Teens are not future-oriented," she said. "They want things right now. For them, a baby may look like the answer to another problem," Wilson said.

— They want someone to love them. Many teens who do not feel the love of parents and family see having a baby as a way to get love. "Girls know that babies love their mothers," she said.

— They need approval, love, or security. "Most teen girls aren't thinking in terms of sexual behavior, but are just looking for someone to care about them," she said.

— Most teens are aware of birth control but are confused about the use of it. "I'm not advocating sex outside of it. I'm not advocating sex outside (See WMU on page 4)

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — A rash of faculty resignations and retirements at Southeastern Seminary has spared the school's trustees their hardest task — making room for inerrantist teachers who will transform the school into a bastion of conservative theology.

After opposing the conservative trend for four years, Southeastern's faculty has, by most accounts, given up the fight. Trustees and administrators say faculty departures recently announced or pending will create enough vacancies for them to accomplish the desired theological transformation as early as two years from now.

At the start of the last school year, Southeastern's faculty numbered 27. By the end of the upcoming school year, at least 10 professors, and maybe as many as 17, will have left the classroom.

Among those not saddened by news of the faculty departures are fundamental-conservative trustees, who since 1987 have had a majority of votes on the trustee board and a commitment to put inerrantists in the place of faculty members they consider liberal.

Their agenda for theological reform has met stiff resistance in recent years from both the faculty and the school's accrediting agencies. Many observers had predicted a prolonged confrontation, perhaps resulting in

faculty firings.

Some trustees who had braced for a fight with faculty are calling the sudden turn of events "a miracle" from God, according to one trustee source.

Not only will the faculty departures speed the addition of inerrantist professors, they also will help Southeastern stem the growing financial crisis at the seminary, which threatens to reduce the school's \$6 million budget by more than \$1 million.

Fueling those fears is the fact Southeastern has almost as many professors now as it did before controversy engulfed the school in 1987, yet four years of turmoil has cut student enrollment almost in half. With classroom instruction accounting for almost a third of Southeastern's budget, and teacher tenure offering no protection during times of financial crisis, faculty members have viewed their job security with growing dread.

Already gone from last year's faculty are church-history professor Thomas Halbrooks and pastoral-care professor Richard Hester, who each took new positions. Both were considered outspoken leaders among the faculty.

At least three professors are expected to leave after the fall term, some for other positions: Samuel Ballentine, Old Testament; William Clemmons, Christian education; and

Glenn Miller, church history. Another four will follow in the spring: Michael Hawn, church music; Eugene McLeod, librarian; Richard Spencer, New Testament; and Furman Hewitt, Christian ethics, who will take early retirement.

Ethics professor Thomas Bland is scheduled to retire at the end of 1992. Theology professor John Eddins recently announced plans to retire in 1993.

As many as four others reportedly are negotiating retirement or departure arrangements with administrators. Plans for another four or five are unknown.

It is unclear what effect, if any, the faculty departures will have on the school's effort to retain its accreditation, however. Because of the ongoing dispute between the faculty and trustees, the school has been told by the Association of Theological Schools to "show cause" why it should not have its accreditation removed.

Although trustees have considered faculty opposition to reform a stumbling block to accreditation, it is uncertain the faculty shift will come soon enough to influence the accreditation process, which is due for a decision next year.

Still it's little wonder trustees viewed news of the rash of resignations as miraculous, since it offered solutions

(See FMB on page 5)



# Kazakhstan is host to Jackson couple

By Shannon Simpson

William Maxwell, director of Accounting and Personnel Services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was one of 19 Mississippians who participated in the first Kazakh-American Cultural Festival, June 21-July 6 in the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

Maxwell and his wife Faith were part of the festival's "business club," which toured Kazakh businesses and delivered lectures and training.

The business club consisted of 55 members, each of whom belonged to a smaller group. William's duty was to speak to bank executives in Alma-Ata, the capital city of the republic, on "Theories of Management and Leadership." His lectures regarded the function of American businesses, discussed the problem of Kazakh marketing, and allowed the Kazakhs to voice desires for their businesses.

the practicum," according to William.

Central Asia Foundation coordinates the work of about 50 Christians, including some Southern Baptists, who live in Alma-Ata.

At the southern city of Ust-Kamenogorsk, the business group toured a "silk" factory (which really produces nylon), and lead, zinc, and titanium plants which had previously been off limits even to Kazakhs. William also spoke to a Children's Business Club (the equivalent of our Junior Achievement).

But the things that impressed the Maxwells most were the mountains ("Gorgeous!"), the Horse Festival, the beauty of the people, and the adherence of the Kazakhs to absolute protocol.

"They really pride themselves on being gracious," says William. "There was one time when we were late for our next appointment, but our Kazakh hosts insisted on our staying to have tea. They went out of their way to be hospitable to us, but we drank enough tea to float China."

William is quick to point out that, although the trip was not a mission trip, he was able to witness. One interpreter with whom the group established a particularly good relationship told them she didn't believe in God. Later, she expressed a desire for a more sincere faith. Then, when she invited them to her home for dinner, she said as they left, "I believe I can say now, may God bless you as you return."

"Most mission trips are for evangelism and traditional revival-type services," says William. "But this was a unique opportunity in that I could use my business skills and not my ministerial skills. And it was something Faith and I could both plug into."

"Southern Baptists are doing an amazing work over there. They are meeting the human needs of economic development, ministering to economic needs. It's a very New Testament work."

The Maxwells are members of First, Jackson. They hope to be asked to participate in the next Kazakh-American Cultural Festival, which will be held around the United States in 1992.

start, she said.

"Teens need to have sex explained to them. They want to know how to realistically respond when they get out on a date," Wilson said.

Wilson suggested Acteens leaders find a youth minister or a local nurse to visit their group to lead the discussion if they don't feel comfortable talking about sex.

Church members also can help teens avoid unwanted pregnancies by helping them to establish goals, she said. For example, jobs help teens stay out of trouble, help build their self-esteem, and give them a better grasp of the value of money, she said. "Perhaps there are business professionals in your church who can offer summer jobs to them."

Most of all, Wilson encouraged teen leaders to help their teenagers look to the future. "Give them a reason not to become pregnant because they have something wonderful planned," she suggested.



## Team pours concrete in Honduras

A mission team from three states went on a construction project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras recently. They poured concrete flooring in the seminary World Hunger building while there. The team members are: from left to right, front, Greg Herndon, Pontotoc County; Ronny Guin, Prentiss County; Lonny Murphy, Prentiss County; rear, Mike Jett, Union County; Sammy Agnew, Prentiss County; Wally Knight, Canton, North Carolina; Steve Fitzgerald, Union County; Lewis McIntosh, Plant City, Florida; and Joe Herndon, Prentiss County, team leader.

## WMU offers CONTACT workshop

CONTACT, the new missions involvement program of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and the Brotherhood Commission, SBC, will be introduced in a workshop at Camp Garaywa, Aug. 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 2:30. Frances Downs of Shaw will lead the study. Lunch will be served at Garaywa at \$4.50 per person.

No reservations are necessary. CONTACT is a 12-week experience featuring Bible study, prayer, personal reflection, and suggestions for action. The participant spends five days each week in personal time, and on the sixth day meets with a group of 8 to 12 persons to share experiences of the week. If the participant chooses to work through CONTACT alone, the group session becomes a sixth daily session.

CONTACT is designed as a tool "to revitalize the missions understanding and life-style of individuals and churches, and to help church members act on the leadership of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the Great Commission."

However, if faced with a teen pregnancy, Wilson encouraged women in WMU to use the situation as an opportunity for ministry on several levels — mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual.

Physically, teen-age mothers face a higher risk for complications than a woman in her 20s or 30s. Because the mother's body itself is probably not fully developed and ready to handle the birth of a baby, problems such as anemia, prolonged labor, premature labor, and urinary tract infections are common.

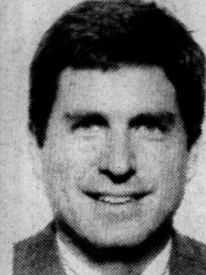
Babies born to teenage mothers are also at a higher risk physically. Statistics show teens ages 17 and younger are twice as likely to deliver low-birthweight babies as mothers older than 17.

"These babies are twice as likely to die before their first birthday than babies born to women in their 20s," Wilson said.

(See WMU on page 5)

## First, Laurel hosts medical-dental meet

The South Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at First Church, Laurel.



Jones

Guest speakers for the meeting will be Dan and Lydia Jones, Southern Baptist medical missionaries for the last six years to the Bill Wallace Memorial Hospital in Pusan, Korea. Jones was in the practice of

Internal Medicine in Laurel until 1985, when he and Lydia were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board.

A preview of the National Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship meeting to be held in Dallas, Nov. 14-17 will also be on program.

There is no charge for the meeting. All health care professionals and their spouses are welcome.

For further information, call John McGraw, 428-4911.

## Town, Country Music Conferences to be held at four locations

Town and Country Church Music Conferences are designed for all church music leadership but especially for those from churches with fewer than 200 members.

Such conferences are to be held during August at four locations in two areas of the state.

Area III: Thursday-Friday, Aug. 8-9, at North Carrollton Church, Carrollton; and Friday-Saturday, Aug. 9-10, at Eastwood Church, Indianola, with Elmo Mercer, noted composer and arranger from Nashville, Tenn., as leader.

Area II: Thursday-Friday, Aug. 15-16, at Meadowood Church, Amory; and Friday-Saturday, Aug. 16-17, at Gaston Church, Booneville, with Tommy Keown, small church/associational music consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, as leader.

For registration at these conferences, \$5 per person should be sent to Danny Jones, Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, with indication of conference location.

## Opportunities

- Short-term service in Kazakhstan is available in such areas as business, medicine, education, and sports.

- Christian host families are needed for Kazakh high school and college students visiting the U.S. beginning in early 1992.

- Christian hosts are needed for 300 Kazakh businessmen coming annually for two- to eight-week programs as interns in American businesses.

- A second Kazakh-American festival will be held in Pennsylvania and other states May 10-25, 1992.

Faith was also a participant in the business club. As a part of the secretarial group, she helped conduct seminars and training for secretaries of the Golden Apple Foundation of Kazakhstan and the Central Asia Foundation, under whose auspices the trip was organized. The group also did work for the festival itself, and were probably "the most flexible group in

## WMU

From page 3

of marriage because the Bible is very clear about it. But if we are going to be realistic, for those who are going to use birth control, we need to make sure they have the correct information," Wilson said. "If we don't, they'll get the wrong information on the street."

— They see promiscuous sexual behavior without consequences on television and in movies.

— Teens are bombarded with ads for products which are sexually linked.

"As Christians, we need to be out there on the front to help teach teens good sexual behavior instead of sticking our heads in the sand," she said.

Talking with youth in church groups such as Acteens, the age-level missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12, can provide a good

## The Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton

presents

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August 12



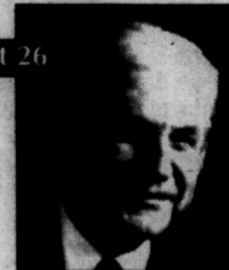
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August 19



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Thursday, August 1, 1991

# First Church, Gulfport video wins local awards

By Guy Henderson

A seven-minute video on the ministries of First Church, Gulfport, has won two local awards.

On April 12, Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting presented First Church the "Best Use of Media" and "Mission Evangelism" awards for simple and effective use of media at the awards banquet held at Calvary Church, Jackson.

The church's production stresses outreach and is given to new families or first time visitors to the church. Ministry is its theme. Pastor Dean Register speaks briefly on the video of life's puzzles and finding the right solutions to them. Carrying out the theme of the pastor's message, puzzle pieces appear periodically during the film, finally coming together to form a headline: "Share the Excitement."

Scenes of the nursery, pre-school, and grades 1-6 are shown, as are teenagers looking for answers and encouragement. The video also reaches out to address the needs of single adults. Couples and senior adults are shown in a flurry of activities. Music ministries for all ages, sports, mission organizations, and deaf ministries are also mentioned. People are the focus of the video: the church building is never shown.

According to Randy Riley, educational director, the video has been effective in making all ministries known

without any pressure or prospective members. In the privacy of their homes, they can decide if they wish to participate.

"We were very comfortable in using it"; "It's good for all ages"; and "We even shared it with friends" are some of the comments from video recipients.

"It is a unique but effective way of outreach, and is easy to understand," said Riley.

The video was produced entirely by members of First Church's TV ministry team: Jim Allen, editing; Ruben Smith, directing; Martha Estes, production and directing assistant (now in charge of the television production ministry at First, Gulfport); and Gary Clay, Jason Vaughan, Scott Embry, George Estes, Tim Thomas, John Roberts, Rodger Meininger, and Steve Rutledge, shooting.

"Dean Register was in the middle of it all the way through," said Jim Allen, in a phone interview with the Baptist Record. "He was willing to do whatever it took to get the thing done. He put in a lot of work. In fact, he wrote the original script for the video."

In light of the video's success as a visitation tool, the church is making plans to produce an updated version later this year.



Former missionary to Brazil, William Damon, 58, recently became one of the Foreign Mission Board's missionary candidate consultants. Damon, a native of Amarillo, Tex., will work with people from the southern region of the United States interested in missions. His region will include Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Puerto Rico, and New Orleans Seminary. (FMB photo)

## Annuity investments secure despite MBL

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention does have limited exposure to a troubled New Jersey life insurance company but the "problem will have no effect whatsoever on the (board's) ability to meet every benefit check obligation."

Annuity Board officials said the company, Mutual Benefit Life Insurance of New Jersey, has voluntarily requested protection while it works to solve problems related to some of its investments. The Annuity Board has two guaranteed investment contracts with that company.

"The (board's) Fixed Fund does have limited exposure to MBL in two contracts with a total present value of \$21.3 million. This represents approximately 1.6 percent of the Fixed Fund . . . The Annuity Fund, from which benefits are paid, has no investment in Mutual Benefit Life," said a board spokesman.

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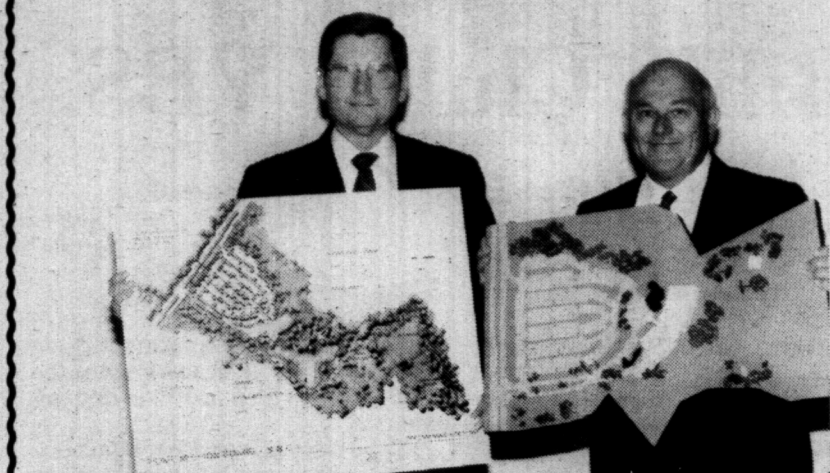
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PLANS FOR NEW HOME MISSION BOARD HEADQUARTERS: Larry Lewis (left), president of the SBC Home Mission Board and Ralph Smith (right), chairman of the board's site and building committee, display architectural models and drawings of a proposed new headquarters building. HMB directors voted unanimously to move the board from midtown Atlanta 22 miles north to Alpharetta, Ga. The committee headed by Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church in Austin, Tex., considered more than 150 possible sites in the metro Atlanta area before recommending the location. (BP Photo by Eddy Oliver)

## Pastors' school at MC is set for August 8-9

A pastors' school at Mississippi College is set for Aug. 8-9, and registrations are now being accepted by the Office of Continuing Education.

The school, sponsored by the college in cooperation with various agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be geared toward pastors, all staff members, directors of missions, chaplains, and their wives.

Teaching staff will include Will Beal, consultant, Church Administration Department, BSSB; Harold Bryson, chairman of pastoral ministries at New Orleans Seminary; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, MBCB; John McCall, head of the Department of Religion at MC; and Graham Smith, director of the church music department, MBCB.

Leading a special program for the

wives will be Bettye Coward, professor and head of the Department of Home Economics and Physical Education, and Lynda L. Street, wife of James Street, pastor of Calvary Church in Jackson and secretary in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College.

Coward will lead a seminar on "Managing Time." Street will lead "Called to be the Minister's Wife" and "Called to be the Real You."

The registration fee will be \$15 per person or \$20 per couple. Accommodations are available in Gunter Hall on campus at \$8 per person/couple per night.

Thursday evening banquet will be complimentary. Other meals can be purchased in the college cafeteria.

For additional information, call 925-3831.

## SOUTHEASTERN

From page 3

to two of their thorniest problems — an uncooperative faculty and a looming budget crisis.

The "miracle" solution may also have saved the job of President Lewis Drummond, who has been under fire from some trustees for most of the year.

Drummond was elected in 1988 after then-President Randall Lolley resigned in a dispute with trustees over their plan to reshape the school, one of six Southern Baptist seminaries. Although Drummond was expected to usher in changes, some trustees have since grown impatient with the slow pace of reform.

"Dr. Drummond has been here since 1988 and has been able to elect only three people to the faculty," said Russ Bush, one of the three. "That's been some of the trustee frustration."

Drummond also drew criticism for spending an estimated \$200,000 to remodel and furnish his office and residence at a time when the school faces a serious financial crisis.

But in his report to trustees in March, Drummond conceded his approach to solving the seminary's problems had "in large measure failed" and pledged "a fresh new course." That course correction, he said, would include assuring the "theological integrity" of the seminary by seeking faculty adherence to the school's Articles of Faith.

To the faculty, the speech meant "we're going to have a witch-hunt," recalled Hewitt. "For the president to call for theological integrity, by implication, says those of us on the faculty do not have it."

Despite assurances from Drummond and Bush that professors would not be fired, many on the faculty took the president's renewed resolve as their cue to give up the fight, sources say.

Bush agreed the pace of faculty departures has been hastened by concern over the seminary's financial situation, but he added, "We're not making this (financial crisis) up to

## Gladys Bryant, retired BSU director, dies

Funeral services were held July 29, at 1:30 p.m. at Moore Funeral Home Chapel, Hattiesburg for Gladys C. ("Miss B") Bryant, 71, of Hattiesburg, who died July 24 at the Hattiesburg Convalescent Center.

Gary Berry officiated; interment was in the Providence Cemetery.

Miss Bryant was a native of Sanford, Miss. and a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. She was a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and also a graduate of Clarke College. For three years she worked with the state Training Union Department. She had worked as BSU director at Itawamba Community College six years and East Central Community College for 30 years. She retired in June, 1986.

She is survived by four brothers, Ford Bryant of Eatonville, Miss.; Ermon H. Bryant of Satellite Beach, Fla.; Bryan W. Bryant, Houston, Tex.; Norris R. Bryant, Georgetown, S.C. She was preceded in death by her parents, Abner A. (a preacher) and Ella Bryant.

## WMU

From page 4

The mother's use of drugs and alcohol, inadequate nutritional care, and a lack of prenatal care all contribute to the risk of delivering a low-birthweight baby, she said.

Members of WMU can help combat a national problem by offering childbirth and parenting classes to pregnant teens, she said. "Each of us has something to offer," Wilson said.

Academic tutoring can be another form of ministry, she suggested. Pregnancy is the major cause of teen dropouts from school, according to statistics. "There are lots of WMU members who are educators," Wilson said. "Get educators involved in a tutoring program for these girls."

Perhaps the most difficult areas for Christians to handle are the emotional and spiritual aspects of teen pregnancies, Wilson said.

Christians tend to get caught up in condemning certain sins more than others, she said, telling the story of a pastor's teenage daughter who became pregnant. She and the baby's father, the son of a deacon, decided to abort the baby. When they finally shared their secret, the couple said they had been afraid to tell anybody. They had been afraid their church would reject them.

"It makes me shudder to realize that teens can feel such condemnation from the church," Wilson said. "We've got to go into this type of ministry with a non-judgmental mind and with compassion."

Doyle writes for WMU.





"Miss Inez" and one of the children she loves.



Raeline and Evangeline Johnson, daughters of Pastor and Mrs. James Ray Johnson. Their father is pastor of Bogue Homa and Canaan churches and interim pastor at Pearl River Church. The young man is Ray Lewis. They listened intently at the Backyard Bible Club held in the Lewis yard. (Photos by Lola M. Autry)

# Backyard Bible Clubs, VBS, - AND TUNA FISH SANDWICHES

By Lola M. Autry

According to Lee R. Bacon, director of missions at the Baptist Indian Center, New Choctaw Association, there are 13 Baptist churches and 1,475 Baptists on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in east-central Mississippi. It was to this group of churches a team of women from Illinois and Mississippi went in June to lead Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools, and to teach sewing. Imagine our delight when we were joined by Daniel Fulton and his puppet. Daniel is the son of Pastor and Mrs. Keith Fulton of County Line Church, Union.

Knocking on doors and picking up children were routine each morning for Backyard Bible Club. Sewing classes were in the afternoon and Vacation Bible School was at night. Our "bed and breakfast" was furnished by gracious families in Neshoba County, our lunch was at the Baptist Indian Center, and our evening meals were prepared by women from the Neshoba County Association. Choctaw Christians opened their homes and their yards and their churches as meeting places. This was an all out effort by Christians both on and off the Reservation.

One of those who opened her home was "Miss Inez" of Bogue Chitto. Mrs. Inez Henry is her formal name, but there is nothing formal about her. She is a lover of children and where she is, there they are. "Miss" Inez must be one of the best loved persons on the Reservation. She has lived there a long time.

She arose early on those mornings when Backyard Bible Club met at her house. Her greeting to each child was, "Have you had breakfast?" The answer often was "No." That's when "Miss" Inez went to work. Her motto seemed to be, Feed the body first and then feed the soul. Usually eight or ten breakfasted at the table in her small, neat house. She pictured well fed, smiling children learning that she

loves them, but Jesus loves them more.

The children were fed, the volunteers well prepared to teach, but kids were not always ready to learn. "Miss" Inez knew what to do. She had had six children of her own. Perhaps that's why these all loved her so much. She had understanding born of experience. If the preschoolers became wigglers she sat with them and cuddled them. If the older ones became rowdy she fed them. She could sense their needs. She knew how to handle older people, too. What she asked them to do, they did. That seemed to be a typical reaction to "Miss" Inez.

One day she couldn't be present when the children came. She left instructions with her sister, Hazel. When the volunteers protested that she didn't need to serve refreshments to the children her reply was, "Oh, yes, I do. Inez told me to."

What "Miss" Inez said to do, was done, yet not through fear. Love and respect accomplish what fear never could. They know about her life and courage.

"Miss" Inez is in a wheel chair. That is, unless she straps on her artificial leg and uses a walker to go short distances. Diabetes took its toll three years ago when her leg had to be amputated. Her husband, a pastor for 14 years, had been with her that day. "I'm going home," he told her that evening. "I'll see you in the morning."

But he never came back. That night he went to his eternal home, and "Miss" Inez was left to cope without him. Her leg did not heal as it should and she was soon in the hospital again for more surgery.

"How did you manage?" I asked in amazement.

"Well, I thought, 'God's with me. God's going to take care of me.'" She paused as if reliving the past. "That made me feel better," she concluded.

This special lady is now also on dialysis, and the day Hazel served the refreshments to the children was the

one for her dialysis treatment. Next morning "Miss" Inez was back at the stove ready to feed any who had not eaten.

"If you were allowed to tell just one thing about your life," I questioned, "what would it be?"

There was no hesitation. "That God takes care of me."

"Miss" Inez inspired all of us who heard of her or met her. Others made wonderful lasting impressions in different ways. Perhaps the words of Connie Bunch who worked with other volunteers at the Freddie John home speak for all of us:

"We had normal, loving, mischievous, active children. One day we had three dogs and five kittens added to our class." Then in a more personal, poignant way she spoke our thoughts through her own experiences at Old Canaan Church Vacation Bible School.

"I will not soon forget: Charlie Denison teaching the Bible lesson in Choctaw; sitting under a huge oak listening as the Choctaw adults sang 'In the Sweet By and By' in their own language; the little boy who climbed into my lap while little girls removed and wore my sun glasses, big grins on their faces; the soft touch of little brown hands reaching out for mine; the joy of meeting and praying and working with the marvelous people who came here to work, and feeling the depth of their spiritual lives, the joy of their service; the shared pain we all felt because some did not know who Jesus is; the evening cool after the sweltering day; the sense of the presence of God and the experience of his love."

And, oh yes, what about the tuna sandwiches? "Miss" Inez had prepared them for the children before she left for dialysis that morning. She never failed in her mission of feeding both body and soul. I pray we didn't fail either.

Autry lives near Hickory Flat.

## What to do when you're bitter

By Louis Lamar

Bitterness is what we get when we bite into a sour pickle. Why, you may ask would someone eat something that was bitter? Perhaps we have become acclimated to the bitterness of life and find that we cannot let it go.

After returning home from the Vietnam war, I would attend many different veterans' meetings. These meetings served several purposes. One was for fellowship, being around those with whom we could share experiences. Second was to learn about the various benefits that we were entitled to receive.

While attending these meetings I met a vet who had been wounded and served as a P.O.W. He came home filled with bitterness and anger. He relived his experiences often, and would share them with anyone who would listen. He was bitter and angry because he had nearly lost his life for a country where he still received second class treatment as a citizen, (this soldier was an African-American).

Bitterness and anger can cause many different health problems if we continue to harbor ill feelings. Bitterness and prejudice can create within us both mental and physical problems that even the best health care professionals cannot deal with. Perhaps that is why Paul listed bitterness first when he said: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

The mandate from the Master is clear. There is no need for this soldier and many of us to remain in the P.O.W. camps of our minds. The escape is clearly marked. It leads to the cross . . . where the only One who had a right to be bitter wasn't.

Lamar is pastor, Mount Sinai Church, Tupelo.

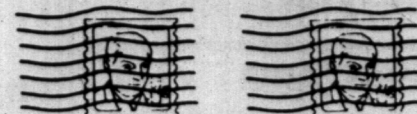


Daniel Fulton and his puppet at the Backyard Bible Club meeting at the Johnney Ray Lewis home on Goat Ranch Road.





# Letters to the editor



## Call a church Baptist

Editor:

What and where is the problem? There is never a need to stress denomination when witnessing for Christ. First, last, and always it is the Lord Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by him (John 14:6).

Today, many would prefer to be free from anything (or anyone) that convicts them of sin. The Baptist heritage is belief in the holy Bible as the infallible Word of God. If we would abide by its principles the present day corruption and sin need not exist. "For all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The name Baptist, for the most part, represents a Bible preaching church and that is where I found Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord of my life. Therein lies the secret of a happy, peaceful way of life. "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God in a wicked and perverse nation among whom you shine as lights of the world" (Philippians 2:15).

Why lower the standards?

Nancy Page Goldstine  
Picaune

## Pew pads and baptistry painting for free

Editor:

Belden Baptist Church in Lee County, Mississippi, has 31 pads for pews that are 16 1/2" long x 15" wide x 2" thick covered with burgundy velvet material to give away. We also have

a baptistry painting of a river scene. Its dimensions are 10' x 4 1/2'.

If any Baptist Record reader has a need for either or both of these items, please call 842-6341 before noon Monday through Friday.

Eulah Barber

Secretary

Belden Church

Belden, Miss.

## Anti-abortion testimony

Editor:

Thank you for the anti-abortion testimony by Hillary Haik. As an adoptive mother I can echo her affirmation of the best for the adopted child. We adopted two and then gave birth to two. The natural mothers gave up children they could not provide homes for. We received two darling babies we could love and care for. They are healthy adults now. One married last year. The other returns from the Desert Storm with his Marine detachment in one more month.

Their growth and development has truly been a mother's dream.

Sylvia Peterson  
Meridian, MS

## Student missionaries in Canada

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists have much for which you can be thankful — including a group of student summer missionaries who are making a positive impact in western Canada.

Recently my husband and I were in the Vancouver, British Columbia area

for a Baptist camp. We got to know several Mississippi summer missionaries. They were enthusiastic and had a servant attitude. Only God knows all the lives they have touched. Thank you for your supporting them and sending them to Canada.

Among the missionaries in the Vancouver area are Lori Ard, Dianne Coxwell, Timmy Desoto, Rhonda Hensarling, Beth Hickman, and Michael Kelly.

Nancy McGough  
Calgary, Alberta

## Return to Baptist ways

Editor:

The article that appeared on July 11, 1991 (What to call a church?) saddened me. As a student at Mississippi College in the late '50s I was nurtured emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually in Baptist traditions and beliefs. It is not just a label I use, it is who I am. To deny it for short term expediency would not only be intellectually dishonest, it would be spiritual bankruptcy.

Further, the writers made a serious mistake in not pointing out to us why it is that the word "Baptist" has such negative connotations. Having lived in the Northeast for the past 25 years (PA, NJ, D.C., NY, DE, CT) I can share with you some of the negative criticism that has been offered. These include charges of racism, religious intolerance, ignorance, mean spirited, narrow minded, fundamentalism, and others. Racism is a part of our history that we cannot deny, though I find more racism in NYC now than I have found in recent trips to Mississippi. Charges of religious intolerance, ig-

norance, and mean spirited are usually proffered by individuals who desperately need to be informed as to Baptist traditions, history, and beliefs.

However, narrow mindedness and fundamentalism in their most negative and unchristian expression, are part of the reality of Southern Baptists today. We need desperately to return to Baptist ways, to a reaffirmation of our traditions, and to a reconciliation with our brothers and sisters in Christ lest we become a stumbling block to the gospel.

As a layman I use every opportunity I have to proclaim Christ through my life and I speak of my Baptist faith with pride. I could do nothing else.

Jose Orraca  
Kent, Connecticut

## Update from Turkey

Editor:

This week Martha and I were invited to the United States ambassador to Turkey's residence to welcome the arrival of United States President George Bush and his wife, Barbara. Martha and I never dreamed that when we came to Turkey, we would be involved in the ministries that have availed themselves, nor that it would afford us the great honor of meeting our President and the First Lady.

It is almost awesome to feel the President of the United States on the other end of your arm — shaking your hand, and looking you eyeball to eyeball! The President thanked all who had helped or were involved some way in the relief work to the Kurds in Iraq. He and Mrs. Bush are very gracious and warm people.

For Southern Baptists, the work in

Iraq continues. The emergency of getting the people off the mountains and down into camps was accomplished with speed and care. Our medical teams cared for over 500 patients per day at the height of the problem. The medical welfare of the people is under control and most medical teams will be leaving Iraq sometime in August.

The focus of our effort now is upon providing a sanitary water supply for many of the towns and villages. Teams now are being sent in to drill wells for water. It is still an unsafe country and our people face some great risks to their safety.

Thank all of you for your faithfulness in giving through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon.

Ken and Martha Cooper  
Southern Baptist workers  
Turkey

## Understand the need

Editor:

There is a need for pastors, teachers, deacons, and all other church leaders to pray and understand our need. We are, the mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, friends whom you face in church every Sunday, and our child or sister or brother is homosexual or a lesbian. We can't make ourselves known, for we would see revulsion, embarrassment, and indifference on your faces.

We hear prayers for everyone and every church need, but none for us. At no time did lesbians and gays make the decision to be as they are; they (See **UNDERSTAND** on page 8)

# LETTERS FROM CAREY - The College of Choice

By Hardy R. Denham, Jr. Coordinator of CRV Programs

August 1, 1991

*"If there is any man who fears the Lord, he shall be shown the path that he should choose."*

*Psalms 25:12 (NEB)*

The Word of God teaches that it is both the privilege and responsibility of every person to make the choices which determine the course their lives take. God is able to provide the direction all of us need in making those choices, and He does just that when we look to Him in faith.

One of our faith choices at Carey is to invest in the lives of our students by providing scholarship support in the areas of academics, missions and community service, leadership, and CRV service. With such support, an increasing number of people are making William Carey the college of their choice. Many of our students say that God led them to choose William Carey College - and the following four testimonies indicate they are glad He did!

## STUDENT TESTIMONIES

Grant McLain, a junior and the president of the CRV Fellowship at Carey, is pastor of Leaf Baptist Church in Greene Association.

"Whether to go to college is a choice every high school senior has to make. In preparing for the ministry in my senior year, I began to pray about my college choice. I wanted a college that would not only prepare me to minister but minister to me. I chose William Carey College because it has a warm, caring, personal, Christian environment. Carey has challenged me to 'expect great things from God and attempt great things for Him.' Grant has been awarded both academic and CRV scholarships at Carey.

Tonya Redeemer, a Carey summer missionary serving in the North Delta Association, is a senior from Wiggins. "I chose William Carey because it is small, private, and personable.

Since I first walked onto campus, people have known my name. Unlike some larger universities, you are definitely not just a number at William Carey. I have wonderful Christian friends who understand and support me. Professors are caring and friendly, classes are small, and the individual attention I receive is important to me, especially since I am preparing for a medical career." Tonya's scholarships at William Carey are for academic and missions service.

Bobbi Ezell from Pensacola is a senior and the Student Government Association President for 1991-92. "From my first moment on campus I knew Carey was where God wanted me. Everyone was so friendly, and I, being away from home for the first time, was relieved to have the extra attention from the faculty and staff. I was instantly made part of the Carey family.

I have fond memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I know my decision to attend William Carey was a wise one, and there's no place I'd rather be." Bobbi has both leadership service and academic scholarships at Carey.

Tommy Quinn, a junior CRV student from Georgia, is music minister at Perkinson Baptist Church. "I chose to attend William Carey College because of the personalized attention that I could receive at a small college. I do not believe I would have done as well academically had it not been for the extra hours that my professors have spent with me outside of class. God has a purpose for me here at William Carey College." Tommy has music and CRV scholarships at Carey.

## STUDENT INCREASES

Other people are also making William Carey the college of their choice. The number of Church-Related Vocation applications for the 1991 Fall semester is now up significantly over the number of CRV students enrolled in the Fall of 1990. The 1991 Fall CRV enrollment has the prospect of exceeding our goal of a 20% annual increase through 1995. In dealing personally with these CRV students, and others, I repeatedly hear comments to the effect that the Lord led in the decision to make William Carey the college of their choice.

Our investment of MBC Cooperative Program funds in the kind of scholarships awarded to these four students is a good one. As William Carey College continues to put emphasis on spiritual as well as academic excellence, we are convinced that increasing numbers of high school seniors and junior college transfers, as well as adults going back to school, will be led to make this the college of choice.

(P.S. Next Week - Carey's Work Service Program)



## UNDERSTAND

From page 7

were born that way. God did not give church leaders and others the power to judge them.

Please listen, please pray! We beg for understanding, love, and compassion. We need our churches to be there for us in our need. Others commit sin and you make them feel welcome, but let a lesbian or gay enter, would they be welcome? No! They would be derided — people would not sit next to them. Self-righteous and hypocrites have our church leaders become. We are expressing so much pain, heartache, and sorrow. Oh, how much we need the words, "I love you," a hug, or someone to say, "I am praying for you, your son, or your daughter." Please, please, supply and be there for us.

May God richly and lovingly bless you.

A Child of God  
(Name withheld)

## Staff changes

Dennis E. Salley Jr. of Meridian has accepted the call as pastor of Kirkville Church, Itawamba Association, effective July 13. He was licensed and ordained by Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and received his master of divinity from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, in 1990. Salley, 31, has pastored Living Water Church, Fort Worth. He and his wife, Leanna Joy, have one daughter, Katelynn Joy.

Open house is planned for the Salleys on Aug. 4 from 2-4 p.m. in the parsonage.



Salley

Robert D. Sullivan was licensed to preach on June 9 at Plainway, Laurel. He is pictured receiving the certificate with his wife, Geneva, and his pastor, Kent W. Megehee, left. Sullivan plans to attend William Carey College. He is available to preach, and can be reached at Rt. 3, Box 484, Laurel, MS 39440.



An Age-Level Missions Recognition Service was held at First Church, Moss Point, May 26 with the theme "What a Wonderful World." Mission Friends, pictured at top, are left to right first row, Ann Carter Bloomfield, Stephen Chichester; second row, Sarah DeLancey, Richard Perkins, Mary Margaret Renfroe, Jessica Boyd, Johanna Boyd; third row, Ashlynn Bloomfield, Rachel Busby, Gabe Gattis, John Renfroe, and Ryan Morris. Pictured bottom, are first row GAs — Jillian James, Blair Caldwell, Emily Richardson, Allyson Mizell, Darcy Perkins, Jennifer Landrith, Taris Roney, Alana Troutman; second row, Anna Beth Wills, Tiffany Lamey, Brooke James, Anne Marie Niles, Sandra Pater, Jennifer Watson, and Melissa Eckert; third row, Acteens — Ashley Watson, Wendy Hardin, Deanna Rimer, Andrea Pater, Meg Perkins, Kristi Lamey, and Amy McCain. GA director is Alexa Roney and Wanda Smith is Acteen director. WMU director is June Fairley and Adrian Pater is pastor.

## Revival dates

**Antioch Church, Quitman (Clarke):** Aug. 4-9; Steve Avera, Calvary Church, Foley, Ala., evangelist; Mrs. Vondelle Avera, Antioch Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch at church, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. each night; Eugene Moffett, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Braxton (Simpson):** Aug. 4-9; Sun., regular morning services, dinner on the grounds, afternoon service, J. C. Renfroe, speaking; services nightly 7 p.m.; speakers include Gene Henderson, Benny Still, Bill Causey, Eugene Dobbs; Duncan Sisters, Rankin County, sing Fri. night; Marcus Alexander, pastor.

**Centerville Church (Carroll):** Aug. 5-9; 7:30 p.m.; Leon Holly, pastor, Vaiden Church, evangelist; Eddie Carpenter, pastor.

**Concord Church, Booneville:** Aug. 4-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Billy Dowdy, pastor, Vest Union Church, Carriere, evangelist; Gerald Thompson, Concord Church, music; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

**Crowder Church (North Delta):** Aug. 4-9; Rex Yancey, First Church, Quitman, evangelist; Dwayne and Brenda Sims, Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, music; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

**First Church, Lambert (North Delta):** Aug. 4-7; evangelists, Bobby Ready and his wife Lollie from Baton Rouge, La.; Stephen J. Huber, pastor.

**Everett Church, Mendenhall:** Aug. 4-9; Mitch Herring, Liberty Church, Poplarville, evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

**Fair Ridge Church, Stringer (Jasper):** Aug. 4-9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon fellowship dinner; night services, 7; William "Bill" Boulton, Faith Church, Baker, La., evangelist; Judy Powell, music; Bobby Jones, pastor.

**Galilee First Church, Gloster:** Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; covered dish lunch; Ben Carlisle, pastor, Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, evangelist; Leon Shilling, Wilson Church, Wilson, La., music; Thomas Wicker, pastor.

**Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson:** Aug. 4-7; Jimmy Porter, First Church, McComb, evangelist; Mark Moore, First Church, McComb, music; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce Capleman, pastor.

**Harrisville Church (Simpson):** Aug. 4-9; Argile Smith, Trinity Heights Church, Shreveport, La., evangelist; John Yates, music evangelist, Jackson; services, 7:30 each night; Dennis E. Allen, pastor.

**West End Church, West Point:** Aug. 4-9; 7 p.m.; Sam Morgan, evangelist; Slater Murphy, music evangelist; Terry Partin, pastor; Eric Kachur, minister of music and youth.

**Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian:** Aug. 4-9; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Jewell Greer, min. of music; Sunday services, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jim Smith, pastor.

**Macedonia Church, Brookhaven:** Aug. 4-7; Huey Moak, Foster Road Church, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Hugh Wallis, Cook Church, Ruston, La., music; luncheon at noon; 7 p.m. services; Robert H. Perry, pastor; Joe M. Wallace, minister of music.

**Jupiter Church (Simpson):** Aug. 4-9; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; week nights, 7:30 p.m.; Ken Harrison, Eastside Church, Magee, evangelist; Joe Benton, Jupiter Church, music.

**Providence Church (Grenada):** Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Courtney Selvy, Hardy Church, Hardy, evangelist; Larry Gober, Providence Church, music; J. C. Hall, pastor.

**Pine Grove, Magee (Simpson):** Aug. 4-9; Everett Martin, Gore Springs Church, Grenada, evangelist; J. Blake Scofield, Cleary Church, Florence, music; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Victor C. Johnson, pastor.

**Pleasant Grove Church (Wayne):** Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Terry Booth, evangelist; Ronnie Whitlock, music; Randy Whitlock, pastor.

Jeanette Canzoneri of Jackson joined literacy workers from 28 states at a Literacy Missions Leadership workshop held at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., June 16-22. The program was sponsored by the Home Mission Board, SBC and Samford's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education. Participants are now equipped to train other workers to teach adults to read and write, tutor young people, and teach English to foreigners.

## Olive Branch features "Monday nights in August"

First Church of Olive Branch, Northwest Association, is hosting special services each Monday night in August. The meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Evangelist John "Bull" Bramlett will preach Aug. 5, Bill Causey on Aug. 12, Adrian Rogers on Aug. 19, and Bob Pitman on Aug. 26.

John Bramlett played professional football for seven years and is a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

Bill Causey of Clinton is executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Adrian Rogers is pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis. He has served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bob Pitman is pastor of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis.

P. J. Scott is host pastor.

**Rocky Point Church (Leake):** Aug. 4-7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; services each night, 7 p.m.; Tony Henry, speaker; Welton Madden, music; Robert Parrish, pastor.

**Rock Bluff Church, Morton:** Aug. 5-9; Fred Fowler, Polkville Church, Polkville, evangelist; Ray Gates, Puckett, music; services, 7:30 p.m.; Billy Rowzee, pastor.

**South Side Church, Meridian:** Aug. 4-8; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., noon and 7 p.m.; Byron Malone, pastor, Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, evangelist; Brad Jones, First Church, Carthage, music.

**Union South Church (Covington):** Aug. 4-9; services, Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Glen Davis, First Church, Sumrall, evangelist; Reuben McDowell, Columbia, music; Lamar Williams, pastor.

**Wayside Church, Scobey (Yalobusha):** Aug. 4-9; Cooper Barton (retired) Coffeeville, evangelist; Kermon Moorman, Grenada, Wayside Church, music; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; David Norris, pastor.

**Memorial Church, Richton:** Aug. 4-9; Gerald G. Aultman, Maybank Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Kathryn Barfield, First Church, Yazoo City, music; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Robert H. Rogers, pastor.

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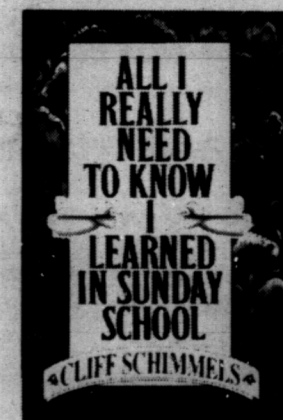


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BS078



# Just for the Record

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9  
Thursday, August 1, 1991



**Hopewell Church (Scott)** recently dedicated its new baptistry. Mark McDonald, pastor, above, baptizes the first candidate to use this baptistry, Joyce Jones.

**WMU of First Church, Moss Point**, hosted a reception honoring foreign missionaries Don and Rose McCain and their daughters, Keysie and Amy, as they prepared to return to the mission field in Lisbon, Portugal on June 18. The church furnished a home for the McCains while on furlough.

**Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland**, held a note burning for an education building on June 30. It represents the culmination of an effort which was formally begun under the leadership of Wayne Gullett in June 1980. Pictured, left to right, are Roy Griffin (trustee), Gary Roberts (pastor), James Harden (deacon and trustee), and James Lindsey (trustee).



**Ingram Church, Prentiss Association**, recently held a note burning service. This culminates the retiring of loans made since 1978 of approximately \$100,000 for a new sanctuary and equipment. The church is debt free and with property that values over \$500,000. Pictured are the deacons and pastor, left to right, Bobby Carr; Howard Crawford; Gene Gamble; Dennis Meek; Earl Barron, chairman; Joe Herndon, pastor; and Ted Crawford.



**First Church, Moss Point**, recently held a commissioning service for Holly Hardin, a BSU summer missionary to Montana. The theme was "Footsteps of Jesus." Leading the service were June Fairley, WMU director and Adrian Pater, pastor. The WMU presented a monetary love gift to Holly. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Hardin of Moss Point.

**Locust Street Church, McComb**, will host a southern gospel concert featuring the Steele's from Brandon, Saturday, Aug. 3, at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after concert. Ted Dukes is pastor.

**Commission Road Church, Long Beach**, will be celebrating "A Month of Mondays for the Master" during the month of August. The following are the speakers for each service: Aug. 5, Ed Lacy, music evangelist, Mobile, Ala.; Aug. 12, Tom Rush, U.S. Navy chaplain, Long Beach; Aug. 19, Frank Gunn, pastor, First Church, Biloxi; and Aug. 26, John Brock, pastor, First Church, Pearl. The services will begin at 7 p.m. each Monday.

**Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City**, held its annual deacon election during the morning worship service Sunday, July 14. Elected to serve for three year terms beginning in October were Thomas (Tuck) McGinty and Earnest Jackson. Both have previously served Center Ridge as deacons. They will join George Kirk Sr., Charles Long, George (Sonny) Kirk Jr., Jimmy Oakes, and Marvin Ray Melton on the seven member active deacon board. H. Bryan Abel is the pastor and Stephen Bath is minister of music and youth.

**Hardy Church, Grenada Association**, recently celebrated a note burning for its newly constructed pastorium (pictured). Also pictured, left to right, are John Caldwell, chairman of deacons as pastorium was built; Bill Taylor, current chairman of deacons; Lyle Corey, coordinator of the building project; and J. Courtney Selvy, pastor. The house was built and paid for in less than two years.



## Homecomings

**Corinth Church, Heidelberg:** Aug. 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Ralph Graves, pastor, Calvary Church, Laurel, guest speaker; dinner and singing in the afternoon; no night services; James Taylor, pastor.

**Beacon Church, Hattiesburg:** Aug. 4; Charles Bogan, First Church, Newport, Tenn., former interim pastor, guest speaker; dinner at the church; singing in afternoon; no night services; Keith Manuel, pastor.

**First Church, Ridgeland:** Aug. 4; 11 a.m.; Horace Ross, Vicksburg, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; no night services; Sherrod Rayburn and the Sonshine Trio from Bethel Church, Monticello, music; Ed Griffin, pastor.

**Rock Bluff Church, Morton:** Aug. 4; 10:45 a.m.; Gary Daniels, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall; no night services; Billy Rowzee, pastor.

**Big Creek, Waynesboro (Wayne):** Aug. 4; 11 a.m., dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Cliff Padgett, guest speaker; The Bean Family, Clara, guest singers; Barney Bagley, pastor.

**Sardis Church, White Oak (Smith):** 15th homecoming; Aug. 4; beginning 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served.

**Pleasant Hill Church, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln):** Aug. 4; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing; no night services; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

**Little Bahala Church, Wesson:** Aug. 11; John Smith, Brookhaven, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:30 p.m.; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Nancy James, Brookhaven, music; Frank Leggett, pastor.

**Juniper Grove, Poplarville:** Aug. 11; special activities, 10:30 a.m.; Dennis Dunn, East Side, Pearl, preaching; fellowship luncheon, noon; Phil Hanberry, pastor.

## Revival dates.

**Linn Church, Doddsville:** Aug. 4-7; Roger Mardis, Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, First, Sardis, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy McLendon, pastor.

**West Drew Church, Drew:** Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., meal served; 7 each night; Bob Hill, Calvary, Cleveland, evangelist; Allan Woodhouse, Calvary, music; Marvin Bibb, pastor.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Pheba Church (Clay):** July 14-19; Hidgon Herrington, Mathiston, evangelist; Leon Wilson, Mathiston, music; one profession of faith; 12 other decisions; James R. (Jimmy) Walker, pastor.

**First Church, Ovett (Jones)** held its Vacation Bible School, June 17-21 for ages 3-youth. The enrollment was 103 and had an average attendance of 88. The offering was \$103.32 for missions. Patsy Eaks, director. Tommy Mangum, pastor.

## Off the Record

During the course of a baseball game, the umpire happened to glance at the stands and noted medics carrying a woman out on a stretcher. Walking over to the manager of one of the teams, he asked, "What happened? Heart attack?"

The manager, whose team was losing, snarled: "No. You called one right and she fainted."

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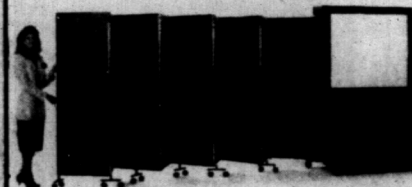
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# Hearing and reading the Word — finding joy

By Kiely D. Young  
Nehemiah 8

"Lord, send a revival" . . . has been the rayer of many churches and Christian workers. From ancient days to the modern era, God's people have pleaded for a renewed outpouring of God's power to encourage the saints and reach the sinners.



Young

In Nehemiah, we find the first recorded revival. The people of Israel had followed the leadership of Nehemiah in overcoming opposition and rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. There was excitement in the

Holy City.

What next? How would they keep up the enthusiasm and not depend entirely upon emotion? Nehemiah knew lasting results could only be found in obedience to God's law. He would call upon Ezra the priest to bring God's Word to his people.

The same is true today. God delights in obedience of his people to his Word. We can readily discover "the joy of the Lord is your strength" when we willingly obey the truth of God's Word.

The joy in Jerusalem continued for several

## UNIFORM

reasons. First, THERE WAS UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE. "And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the water gate" (v. 1). Before the building of the wall, there had been division, doubt, conflict, and complaint. There had been a report in the camp of the enemy about dissension among the Jews. But after the walls were completed and a spirit of revival prevailed, there was reconciliation and unity.

When we get our eyes on the Lord, we get our eyes off the imperfections of others. We see them through the eyes of Christ and love them as he loves them. This is a sign of genuine revival. The people of God come to such a point of harmony and unity that they function as one body because they hold onto one hope.

Second, THERE WAS A COMMITMENT TO GOD'S WORD. "Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly . . . and all who could listen with understanding . . . and he read it . . . from early morning until midday . . . and all the people were attentive to the law" (vv. 2, 3). The priest proclaimed the Word of God boldly and openly in a manner they could understand, a marvelous feat. They heard a

Hebrew Bible through Babylonian ears (since they had just returned from exile) and the scribe made it so they could understand.

There is a terrific need to follow a similar pattern. Read the Word (v. 3), respect the Word (v. 5), and understand the Word (v. 3). Paul wrote a similar exhortation in Romans 10:14-15. "How shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher and how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things."

But, when the Jews heard the strong word of God, they were under immediate conviction. Verse 9: "For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law." Recently a bumper sticker was seen on the back of a camper that read, "God is back, and boy is he mad." The Jews were thinking the same thing.

Nehemiah answered the response of the Jews with a surprise. Verses 9-10: "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep . . . go eat, drink . . . for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." God gave them victory and forgiveness, joy abundant.

Third, THERE WAS OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD. The Jews were gathered for a

feast of celebration while reading God's Word. They heard from the law of Moses that God had commanded the sons of Israel to live in "booths" (huts) on their roof tops during the festival of the seventh month. Therefore (v. 17), "the entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them."

Why would God's people do such an unusual thing as live in huts on their roofs during a festival when their homes were right there? Simply because God had commanded them to do so and they determined to be obedient. Notice the result: "and there was great rejoicing." James gives us similar command in his epistle, "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only."

Psalm 119:1-2 tells us similar response will bring like results, "How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who deserve his testimonies, who seek him with all their heart."

Jesus put all of the law of Moses into two statements. He said you should love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind. And, you should love your neighbor as yourself. If we hear and do these words, truly the joy of the Lord will be our strength.

Young is pastor of First Church, Greenville.

# Israel blessed as Solomon keeps the covenant

By Randy W. Turner  
1 Kings 9:1-10:29

The successful end of a great work is often the beginning of a great relaxation. When the tension is slackened, the whole nature of the worker is relaxed and the temptation to slothful self-indulgence is strong. God knows us and, mercifully, times his manifestations to the moments of special need. So when Solomon had finished his great task, "the Lord appeared a second time as he had at Gibeon" (1 Kings 9:2). There was now the danger that the finished work might be followed by



Turner

indifference, and therefore, God once more spoke words of stimulus, both promises, and warnings.

I. The Promise (1 Kings 9:3-7). God will always make his way clear. He is anxious to reveal himself and his will and not hide himself from us. God always knows our need and always "shows up" at our time of greatest need. In verses 3-5 God promises blessed results from clinging to him and keeping his statutes. In verses 6-9 he mercifully threatens the tragic issues of departure. In applying these to ourselves we must remember that outward prosperity was attached to a devout life more

## BIBLE BOOK

closely in Israel than it is now. Though the form of the blessings dependent on doing God's will alters, the reality remains the same.

The promises to Solomon are preceded by the assurance that his prayer had been heard. The answer corresponds very beautifully to the petition. Solomon had prayed that the eyes of God would always be open toward this house, and God answers with the expanded promise that not only his eyes but his heart shall be there perpetually. He is always able to do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think," and he delights to surprise us with over-answers to our prayers. We cannot widen our desires so far but that his gifts will stretch beyond them on every side.

II. The Proof (1 Kings 10:1, 6-7). There will always be those who will test God's promises. Cynics and skeptics will want to see the reality of God's promises lived out in our lives. Solomon was a great example of just such a test put to him by the Queen of Sheba. The Queen of Sheba, in this passage, may represent a type of all of those seeking after truth. It was no uncommon thing in ancient time for men to travel far in search of wisdom. They would traverse seas, deserts, and mountains to visit the spots famous for learning and to converse with men

celebrated in philosophy. The queen traveled a distance of around 1,500 miles to have an audience with the wise man of God, Solomon.

The Queen of Sheba clearly illustrates the intense desire with which thousands outside the circle of Christian teaching are seeking after truth. In the Queen of Sheba there is the admission of conscious need. She possessed everything that could minister to her temporal enjoyment. She had wealth, prosperity, rank, and power; but these did not satisfy the cravings of her soul.

She revealed a willingness to seek truth wherever it may be found, and when she found it there was a joyous acknowledgement of that truth (vv. 4-9). This is followed by a practical manifestation of a grateful heart (v. 10). There will always be doubters, those who will put the promises of God to the test. God will always prove his promise. He will always keep his covenant.

III. The Prosperity (1 Kings 10:22-25). This section reveals the flood-tide of national prosperity. This great prosperity is seen in the super-abundance of wealth. Solomon was the ideal of an Eastern monarch. All the attributes of greatness were united in him — riches, dignity, ability, fame, and splendor. The Old Testament kingdom reached its culminating point in David's son. All the promises of temporal prosperity were fulfilled in it.

This prosperity is further seen in the external grandeur of the throne. Solomon's throne was made of ivory inlaid with the best gold. Here Solomon sat to receive his officers of state and foreign ambassadors and princes on important occasions, and especially to hear and decide the cases that were submitted to his judgment. The dazzling splendor of the throne was well calculated to inspire awe and was a striking evidence of the wealth and luxury of the times.

This prosperity is well seen in the consummate wisdom of the ruler. The wisdom of Solomon was imminently practical. It suppressed the malcontents and insured the peace of the kingdom. It organized a complicated and flourishing system of commerce. It raised the nation to affluence and fame so that King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. Happy is the nation that, with an expanding and profitable commerce, possess a wise and considerate king.

God will always make himself and his way clear. Even then there will always be those who will put it to the test, even as the Queen of Sheba did in this passage. We know, of course, that God always stands the test, and that he always keeps his word; and by honoring his covenant by obeying his commandments, we will always reveal God to others.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

# "Serve the Lord with gladness in our works and ways"

By Don Dobson  
2 Kings 2:2, 9-15

Warning! All church members please be advised to seek appropriate shelter immediately. The church nominating committee is at work.



Dobson

To many, the above statement is funny. To others, it holds a bit of sting. As Baptists, we understand that in order for the church to operate, it must have its workers. However, when we are asked to served, it becomes a completely different scenario. Perhaps we are a bit unsure of our abilities. It could be that we

believe that we just don't have the time. Maybe we just don't want to serve the Lord. Oftentimes the truth hurts.

As we ponder the possibility of serving God it should help to notice the example of Elisha. We notice that . . .

## LIFE AND WORK

I. Elisha had a Role model (v. 9).

The prophet Elijah was preparing to leave. He had served God faithfully and now he was due his reward. His follower, Elisha, was unsure of his ability to carry on the work of one like Elijah. During their dialogue, Elisha asked to be twice the man that Elijah was. Indeed the younger of the two men knew that it was profitable, spiritually, to have a role model like Elijah.

If we will but look for a godly example to follow, we will be successful.

II. Elisha had a Reason (vv. 10-14).

Elijah was gone. He was no longer the prophet of God. A new era had started. No longer would the people of God call upon the prophet Elijah. They would now look toward the new prophet Elisha. He was now the spiritual leader. He was now God's spokesperson. Elisha was the man of the hour. Elisha had a reason to serve.

He was the one.

There comes a time in the life of a person when he or she must make some hard decisions. For Elisha, this time had come. He would now wear the mantle of the prophet. "If it is to be, it is up to me," Elisha could have said.

The mantle is nothing more than a coat. However, it symbolized the very essence of Elisha. The people were no doubt familiar with the garment. Now that Elisha would be wearing it, the people would recognize him as God's appointed. Now to be sure, the mantle was not the reason to follow and serve; however, it did remind Elisha of his special calling to God's work.

You and I have a reason to serve. God has wonderfully saved us to be a part of his kingdom. He needs no spectators. He needs participants with an unshakeable reason to serve. Elisha had the reason. So do you and I. The reason abounds about communities.

III. Elisha had Reassurance (v. 15).

After the experience with Elijah and the fiery chariot, Elisha was noticed by the sons of the prophets. This was probably a guild or some

kind of brotherhood. The word "son" does not necessarily mean an actual son of the prophet. Whatever the case, this group reaffirmed Elisha's ability to serve. Who is it that does not enjoy and from time to time need a reassuring pat on the back from his friends?

While we may not be able to reach our own backs, we can certainly pat the back of a fellow worker. We but have to look around us to see that all of God's workers deserve words of encouragement. Make it a point today to reassure someone that he is capable of serving our Lord.

IV. Conclusion:

As we see the nominating committee approach, instead of hiding, let's remember B. B. McKinney's hymn, "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

"Serve the Lord with gladness

In our works and ways

Come before his presence with our songs of praise;

Unto him our Maker we would pledge anew  
Life's supreme devotion to service true . . ."

Dobson is pastor of Collins Church, Collins.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**The Baptist Children's Village**

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### MEMORIALS

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May 31, 1991

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Mr. R. E. Green  
Mrs. Lloyd Ellis  
Mr. & Mrs. Dorsey Ray  
L. E. (Bill) Elzey  
Mr. & Mrs. Dolan Fleming  
Guy Faggard  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Mobley  
Mrs. Henry Waters  
Mrs. Marvin Waters  
Etta & Otis Fail  
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Fail  
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Mrs. Ruby Faulkner  
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Mrs. Carol J. Miller

## "Back To School" —

These words which once struck horror in our hearts now flood our minds with so many precious memories of days gone by. Your home, your church, and your school have all greatly contributed to the person who you are even now. Mississippi's largest family is committed to providing the finest environment for Christian growth that can be found anywhere in the South. This includes all areas of growth, physically, spiritually, and academically. Education needs seem to demand a great deal financially, but the rewards are also great. Hear the words of one young lady for whom you have provided for the past eight years.



KIM  
Valedictorian  
Water Valley High School  
1991

*"The Village has been a place where I could grow up and still maintain contact with my family. They provided for the physical needs that my mother could not provide for due to circumstances beyond her control . . .*

*I am planning to attend Mississippi College in the fall of 1991. After completing a degree in accounting, I hope to attend Law School."*

Her caseworker, in describing Kim and her dedication, said, "Kim blooms where she is planted." You have provided the fertile ground that has allowed this beautiful flower to bloom.

Your gift to our "Back To School" campaign will aid in assuring all of our children that the same fertile soil will be available to them for growth, physically, spiritually, and academically.

Thank you for loving the children.

*Ronny Robinson*

Your contribution is tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:

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P. O. Box 27  
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027**

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(To be continued)





## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



### Taxi to Afghanistan

If my friend Joan believes the Lord is telling her to do something, she does it, no matter how preposterous it might seem to her or how much it might interfere with her previous plans. The first week of July she went to visit her brother, Ralph Peterson (he's creator of "Geografun" for Baptist Record Children's Page) in Alexandria, Va. She had not planned to do that, but a few days beforehand she realized the Lord was saying to her, "Go to Washington. I have something for you to do there." Even though it was a busy holiday week, she was not astonished to find that a cancelled reservation had left a seat for her on a plane from Pensacola the day she needed it.

Nearing Washington National Airport, she prayed, "Lord, You are sovereign God. You are in control. Show me how You want me to be transported to my motel."

Her luggage was last to come off the ramp. Her motel provided no shuttle service. She considered subway — but I'll let her tell it in her words: "The Lord seemed to say to me, 'Take a taxi.' His plans are marvelous. As I settled back and gave directions to the driver, again I prayed for guidance. My first question was, 'Where are you from?' 'Afghanistan' was his reply. 'Oh, I met a group of people from your country several years ago. I just loved one

precious little Afghan girl.' The driver obviously warmed to this slight bit of knowledge of his people and his country.

"As God continued to be in charge of the conversation, I felt led to ask about the driver's family. He told me he had a wife and five children still in Afghanistan. 'That must be difficult for you,' I said to him. 'Oh, yes, very difficult.' He seemed sad. Then the Lord led me to say to him, 'My God does not want families separated. He has all power. He can help to reunite your family. Will you let me pray for you and your family?' His reply was 'Yes, of course.' As I leaned over the seat, I said to him, 'Now I am going to close my eyes and pray out loud, if that is all right with you. You please keep your eyes on the highway! God will hear us.'

"As I prayed, 'In Jesus' name, Amen,' no response came from the driver. I wondered, but waited quietly and then he turned his face to look at me. There were tears in his eyes and running down his cheeks. He said, 'My wife is a Christian.' I was amazed!

"He continued, 'My wife exhibits the ways of Jesus. His teachings are real in her life. I have never met anyone until today who exhibited the teachings of Jesus like my wife does. You have prayed with me. You have talked to me about Jesus. As my wife

has tried to convince me to become a Christian, I have always said to her, 'When I meet another Christian who really follows the teachings of Jesus, I will become a Christian.' Today I have met one."

That night, when Joan picked up her devotional guide, she was awed to see a request for prayer for Afghanistan and realized that, due to that request, many had prayed that day for that country. The guide stated that there are only about 1,000 Christian believers in Afghanistan. Of those few, the taxi driver's wife was one.

Aware of God's presence, she humbly bowed her head: "Thank you, Lord, for answering the prayers of a Christian wife in Afghanistan and for answering the prayers of my friends back home who knew I was traveling and asked You to direct my steps and pathways. Thank you that Rashifa accepted gratefully the little New Testament I gave him and agreed to read the book of John. May your Holy Spirit give him understanding. I am sure You will bring him into the kingdom and his name will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. How gracious you are! I praise Your holy Name."

This was only one of at least 12 amazing encounters that week when God asked Joan to go to Washington, and she obeyed.



### Hux Church disbands

Hux Church, Mississippi Association, met a great need for those few members who were attending, said J. Paul Jones, director of missions, in "The Messenger." However, the members felt they could minister in a better way by uniting with other neighboring churches, he continued, and the plan is for each family to decide which church would be the most convenient for them to attend. Hux has been supportive of associational missions, as well as the Cooperative Program. Charles Holifield of Liberty has been pastor several years, along with being pastor of Union Church. The building, formerly Hux School, was built before 1900. The school closed the 1936-37 school year and a Baptist church was organized in the building in 1947.

### Lewis, Parks outline dreams for year 2000 and beyond

By Linda Lawson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Outlining dreams for the year 2000 and beyond, the presidents of the Home and Foreign Mission boards registered concern that economic recession, denominational controversy, and cultural pressures against long-term commitments could limit efforts at world evangelization.

HMB President Larry Lewis and FMB President R. Keith Parks fielded questions during a July 7 town meeting attended by more than 200 participants in Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Financially, Lewis said the HMB stands to receive \$600-700,000 more in Cooperative Program funds for 1991-92. However, medical insurance costs for home missionaries and HMB staff will increase by about \$800,000.

Amid those pressures, Lewis cited the need to increase the home missions force by 100 people per year.

"We need to really pray that these lifeline supports (Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions) will continue" and increase, said Lewis.

Foreign missionaries and FMB staff are "having to learn to do more with less," Parks said.

On the positive side, he cited Baptist conventions in some countries which are becoming increasingly self-supporting and others beginning to send missionaries. Cooperative efforts among evangelical groups are maximizing the impact of personnel, programs, and resources.

However, Parks said both people and money are needed to take advantage of opportunities in eastern Europe.

"There is no question but that we need many more dollars than are coming in," said Parks.

The two agreed the 12-year denominational controversy has taken a toll on missions.

However, Lewis said, "I feel rather positive at this point." He cited what he termed a "spirit of reconciliation and healing" at the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 4-6 in Atlanta and SBC President Morris Chapman's call for starting 1,000 new churches on Easter Sunday 1992.

Resolution of the controversy depends "on whether we can create an

atmosphere where all Southern Baptists can feel they are full participants in decision making," Parks said.

"The roller coaster charts all the offerings are going through show a lack of definiteness on the part of those doing the giving," he continued.

At the end of May, Cooperative Program unified gifts received by the SBC Executive Committee were 6 percent ahead of the previous year. But June receipts dropped 17.42 percent behind June 1990, leaving year-to-date receipts 0.59 percent below last year.

"If somehow we can re-establish that home and foreign missions are our priorities, then I think we have a chance to regain the cohesiveness we had in the past," said Parks. "I hope we can."

Increasing numbers of volunteers participating in home and foreign missions represents one of the brightest spots of progress, Parks and Lewis agreed.

A total of 62,000 Southern Baptists worked in a variety of home missions volunteer roles in 1990, and 11,500 Southern Baptists worked in foreign missions.

Lawson

### Churches must minister in AIDS crisis

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — "AIDS has come to church; there are people out there hurting; and we must minister," Tommy Dixon told participants in a conference on Christians responding to AIDS during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival July 6-12 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Dixon, field services coordinator in the Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department, said: "AIDS is not a New York City or San Francisco disease. It is not a homosexual disease. It has come to our churches and our communities." The role of Southern Baptist churches is to educate and to minister, said Dixon.

While 70 percent of today's AIDS patients in the United States are homosexuals and 25 percent are intravenous drug users, the greatest increase in people contracting the HIV virus in the next 10 years will be among heterosexual young adults 18-29 years old, Dixon said.

"Those are your teen-agers and mine," he said.

Before Christians can minister effectively, they must learn and internalize the facts about how AIDS is contracted, said Dixon. AIDS is not contracted by casual physical contact, he noted.

The first encounter with AIDS for many churches is among family members of people in the church — perhaps a son or daughter coming home to die — he said.

Churches also must be alert to opportunities to minister to families in the community and to enable church members who feel called to minister to people with AIDS.

In the area of education, Dixon said the first need is teaching Christian

ethics.

"The church has got to educate its young, especially teen-agers, that the Christian ethic has not changed. There is right and wrong.

"Sex is for marriage.

"That's the biblical way, God's way," said Dixon.

"It is time the church began to educate its own, not only about the

biological facts of sexuality but also about Christian ethics."

He recommended two books for church leaders to use in ministry — AIDS: A Christian Response by William L. Tillman and AIDS: A Christian Student's Response by Hoyet Chance, a Southern Baptist physician. Both are published by the board.

### 'Wire of Death' was bogus but did the job

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP) — Despite the grim situation in Ethiopia, some light moments provide emotional relief.

Several months ago Southern Baptist missionaries began construction on a medical clinic in the Menjer District southwest of Addis Ababa. The building was still in the rough stages when Ethiopian People's Democratic Front troops captured the capital city.

Looters quickly moved to fill the void left by the collapsed central government. In Menjer their two prime targets were the unfinished clinic and the home of missionaries David and Debbie Brownfield.

Not much building material had been stockpiled at the clinic, but thieves hauled away some steel and other small items. When word got back to the Southern Baptist mission office, missionary Sam Cannata contacted village officials and said construction work would not proceed until everything stolen was returned. It was, and crews resumed work almost immediately.

Later, missionaries learned what transpired at the Brownfields' house. The couple was on emergency leave in the United States when the government fell, and the Ethiopians guarding their homes fled except for one. But that lone guard grabbed some wire and strung it atop the wall that surrounds the house.

When a large mob appeared, he confronted the people, pointed out the wire, and told them it was electric. "Anyone who touches it will die," he warned. The crowd melted away without a single attempt to loot the property.

The nearest electricity is miles and miles away.

Baptist Record

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